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Ernest Francis Drake, a third-generation Princetonian and an amazingly young 70-year old, who this summer for the first time in nearly four decades is letting others ready the University's physical plant for still another college year. Having forgotten more about the Princeton Community than the average Princetonian will ever know, Drake—associated with the University since 1913—has relinquished his duties as carpenter-foreman of the Department of Grounds and Buildings and is thoroughly enjoying life as a "retired" senior citizen.

A specialist in longevity records, Drake makes little of the fact that he completed his apprenticeship in carpentry early in President McKinley's administration and has practiced his trade here for more than a half-century. Only by prodding is it possible to ascertain that at one point in his career he was serving simultaneously as either treasurer or finance officer of eight different organizations, which ranged from local and civic units to a state-wide association of war veterans.

Drake's memories and experiences span the gap between the somnolent Princeton of the long ago and today's ever-growing center of education and research. When his father's stationery store and book-bindingry was located at 80 Nassau Street, the business section consisted of two long blocks and his first carpentry job paid \$5 a week, or less than a skilled carpenter would now earn in three hours. He has been treasurer of the local carpenters' and joiners' union for "better than 25 years," but he first paid union dues in Trenton "because there wasn't a union here."

Princeton's "old" Company L, the outfit he joined in 1900, claimed his wartime services and he came home to play a key role in American Legion activities, holding every office in Princeton Post No. 76 and once commanding the Legion's county organization. A former Fire Department Chief, and now Treasurer of the Exempt Firemen's Association, Drake with 51 years of outstanding volunteer duty behind him is still an active member of Mercer Engine Company Number 3—a record that antedates the birthdates of most of Princeton's active firemen.

For proving to all who know him that age is a matter of feeling, not of years; for believing that unselfish community service is one of the obligations of citizenship; for his interest in, and his enthusiasm for, his native Princeton's continued development; he is TOWN TOPICS' nominee for

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# Town Topics

Published Every Thursday Throughout the Year

DONALD C. STUART JR.  
DAN D. COYLE  
Editors and Publishers

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Box 371 Princeton, N. J. Telephone 2326

Vol. IV, No. 25 Aug. 28-Sept. 3, 1949

## Topics of the Town

**Soap Box Derby.** Technically, an "off-year" occurs in political parlance when no Congressional or Presidential elections are held. Balloting proceeds at the state, county and local levels, with candidates going through the motions of electioneering and many a voter going through the motions of staying at home.

But with the traditional Labor Day signal for starting the campaign yet to be heard, there were already indications on many fronts that New Jersey's "off-year" in 1949 would result in a record vote in many communities and would be studied carefully by both Democratic and Republican leaders at the national level.

For one thing, only two States in the nation were set to elect governors this Fall. Since one of them was Virginia, where the Democrats decide the outcome in the primary, importance would be attached nationally only to the campaign by Elmer Wene to prevent Alfred Driscoll from being the first New Jersey governor to succeed

himself. There had been intermittent skirmishes all Summer and the firing was sure to break out heavily before mid-September.

In Mercer County, registration drives were occupying both parties, but campaign issues were also being drawn. The picture was the same in Princeton, where the Democratic Club greeted arrival of the county's mobile registration unit with the announcement that it would not only provide transportation to Borough Hall for prospective voters Thursday night but baby sitters as well.

Candidates at all levels, and voters, too, might hear more about the various public questions that would appear on the ballot than any other matter. The State had approved three fund-raising propositions whose total was a staggering \$230,000,000: \$25,000,000 for the improvement of State hospitals and other public institutions; \$100,000,000 for low-rent housing; and \$105,000,000 for a World War II veterans' bonus. Regardless of the individual merit of the proposals, the weight of the combined amount to be raised might well topple all three into defeat.

Already gathering momentum was a bi-partisan move to win approval for the bond issue that

—Continued on Page 3

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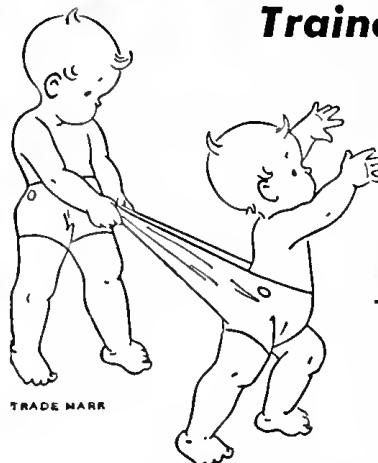
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## TOPICS OF THE TOWN

—Continued from Page 2

would finance vitally needed repairs and expansion for New Jersey hospitals. Likewise beginning to roll was opposition to the bonus: next Tuesday evening at Avalon, Princeton Chapter No. 1, AVC, would meet to chart its campaign against the referendum. A general invitation to all of similar sentiment was extended. Kenneth H. Condit, Jr., chairman of the chapter's legislative committee, was slated to set forth AVC's anti-bonus stand.

Miscellany. Dilman M. K. Smith, Julian Garnsey and John Archer, operators of "Operation Nassau," the plan to unify color and design on Princeton store fronts, continue to welcome all inquiries from merchants who plan redecorating or remodeling . . . no obligation and the service is free . . . Dean Robert K. Root and T. Hart Anderson are new Hun School trustees.

Police report that William E. Palumbo, 21, of 277 Witherspoon Street has admitted responsibility in attacking two Princeton alumni last June with intent to rob . . . Francis B. Dow, 21, of 27 Edwards Place, in Mercer County jail for various theft charges, has been identified as his associate in crimes reported to have occurred late at night on Bayard Lane and near Palmer Stadium . . . Palumbo was

—Continued on Page 6

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Fortnight at Blairstown. Thirty-three years ago, when a serious polio epidemic struck this part of the country, Princeton's football coach, John H. Rush, took his 25-man squad for pre-season practice to Lake Minnewaska in the Catskill Mountains. Not since that emergency measure was adopted in 1916 has a Tiger gridiron team gone through its advance training elsewhere than on sun-baked University Field.

Next Thursday afternoon, however, Charlie Caldwell will shepherd 57 Nassau hopefuls into buses bound for Blairstown, where the spacious Princeton Summer Camp and a newly-conditioned practice field will provide facilities for a fortnight of intensive drills. What polio there has been, of course, has nothing whatsoever to do with the affable Tiger coach's decision.

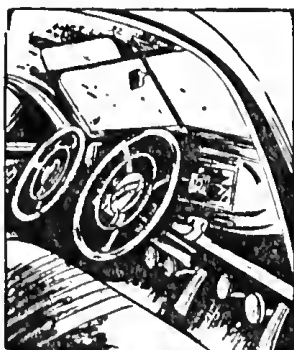
He feels that the cool of the Kittatinny Mountains will better Princeton's frequent September heat waves by several degrees and in this secluded spot he is planning on making every hour of pre-season practice count. Once classes begin (on September 19) academic schedules are so stiff that Princeton's regulars are rarely together on the football field for more than an hour a day.

Caldwell has made the unprecedented move as one more way of strengthening a team facing what is very probably the toughest schedule ever devised for a Princeton eleven. More on that later, along with a complete round-up of what the possibilities are and what to look for as the season develops. It opens, incidentally, just four short weeks from this Saturday afternoon with Lafayette providing

- Continued on Page 8

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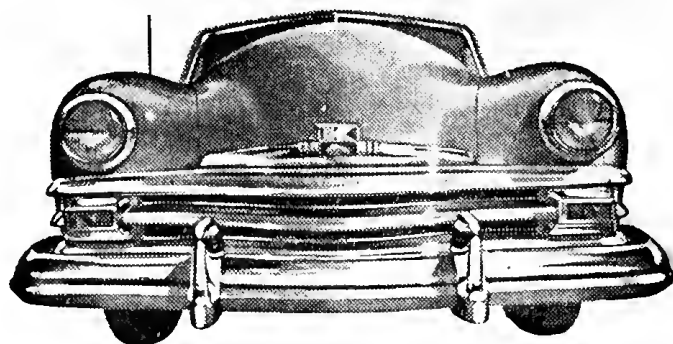
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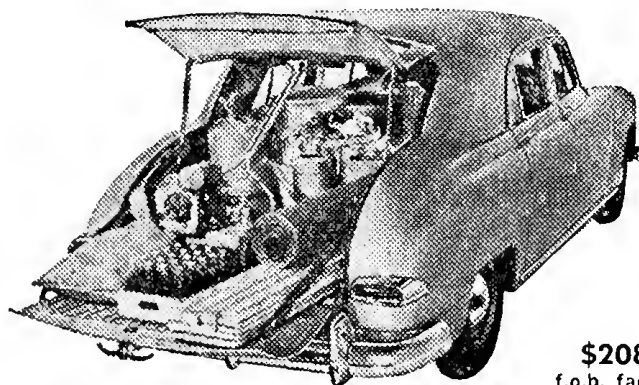
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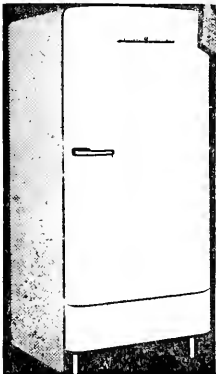
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## News of the Theatres

### MURRAY THEATRE

Measure for Measure (Thurs.-Sat.) completes the eight-week season presented by the University Players, their second on the campus. The current offering is a Shakespearian comedy, typically broad and colorful, which benefits from the very capable direction of Robert Chapman and Willard Thorp. Enthusiasm and variety, fused by sound ability, have invariably been present, making the Players a welcome addition to the summer scene.

### THE PLAYHOUSE

The Mighty Joe Young (Thurs.-Sat.) records the somewhat fantastic adventures of a stupendous gorilla (turned by trick photography from an 18-inch puppet into a mighty monster.) From Africa to, of all places, Hollywood, he leads Terry Moore, Ben Johnson and others a merry chase in a rather intriguing piece of make-believe.

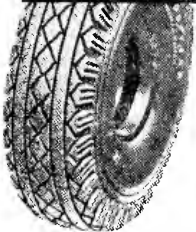
Anna Lucasta (Sun.-Wed.) is the rough, tough story of a Polish-American girl whose ugly-minded father drives her out into the streets for a living. Regrettably, the absorbing atmosphere of the Brooklyn waterfront and the impressive character portrayals by the supporting cast, headed by Broderick Crawford and Oscar Homolka, are noticeably affected by the superficial performance of Paulette Goddard in the title role.

The Window (Thurs.-Sat.) casts 12-year-old Bobby Driscoll as a Manhattan East Side tenement kid being hunted by a pair of killers because he saw their crime. A little-known cast works with him, takes advantage of a suspenseful plot and fine camera technique to come up with as tense a thriller as Princeton has seen in weeks.

—Continued on Page 7

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## TOPICS OF THE TOWN

—Continued from Page 3

freed on \$3,000 bail when his parents bonded Cedar Lane property of theirs on his behalf.

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John W. French, 31 Markham, sustained cuts about the face and brush burns when knocked from his bicycle in a collision Monday night at Nassau & Olden with a car driven by John W. Archer, Jr., 25 Wilton . . . the armory to be used by Company H, National Guard, on the River Road between Kingston and Rocky Hill will be ready for occupancy early next month.

July food costs showed a decline of .2 percent over June but were 6.5 percent lower than they were a year ago . . . postwar prices hit an all-time peak in August '48, dropped 9 percent by February but have risen 3.3 percent since then . . . housewives got an unseasonal but welcome note of holiday cheer this week with the report that turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas would be plentiful and somewhat lower in cost.

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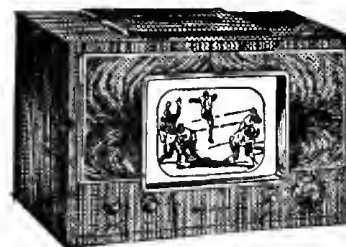
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Grapes ..... 2 lbs. 25c  
Large Honey Dew  
Melons ..... 49c ea.  
Bananas ..... 2 lbs. 27c  
**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**

# NEWS OF THE THEATRES

—Continued from Page 5

**THE GARDEN**  
Johnny Allegro (Tel.-Sat.) directed by the man who was responsible for "The Window," is a thriller of lesser proportions because of a more routine plot. George Raft portrays a florist sent by the government to break up a counterfeit ring operating on a tropical isle and potting unfriendly visitors with bow and arrow.

One Million B. C. (Mon.-Tues.) is the pre-war "flash-back" into the age when the young earth knew only incredibly savage monsters and man's fore-runner was too busy battling them to learn how to destroy his fellow man. Victor Mature and Carole Landis head the cast.

Antoine and Antoinette (Wed.-Thurs.), a gay romantic comedy, ranks well up among the foreign pictures reaching these shores. It was good enough to take first prize at the 1947 film festival in Cannes, France.

**WANTED:** Garage to rent in vicinity of Maple St. Please call 1487 day; 2326 evening.

**DRIVING TO SAN FRANCISCO** around Sept. 15-Oct. 1. Have room for two people. Would like students to drive and share expenses in Will return around Nov. 1. Reply Box D, care of Town Topics.

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## PLAYHOUSE

Thurs.-Sat. Aug. 25-27  
**'THE MIGHTY JOE YOUNG'**  
Terry Moore - Ben Johnson

Sun.-Wed. Aug. 28-31  
**'ANNA LUCASTA'**  
Paulette Goddard  
Oscar Homolka

Thurs.-Sat. Sept. 1-3  
**'THE WINDOW'**  
Barbara Hale - Bobby Driscoll

## GARDEN

Fri.-Sat. Aug. 26-27  
**'JOHNNY ALLEGRO'**  
George Raft - Nina Foch

Mon.-Tues. Aug. 29-30  
**'ONE MILLION B.C.'**  
A Reissue  
Victor Mature - Carole Landis

Wed.-Thurs. Aug. 31-Sept. 1  
**'Antoine and Antoinette'**  
French Film - English Titles

## Calendar of the Week

**Sunday, August 28th**  
7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.: Mass, St. Paul's R. C. Church.  
10:30 a.m.: Visiting Speaker, Mr. Frank Reiter; Lutheran Service; Westminster Choir College Chapel.  
11:00 a.m.: "Ambassadors for Christ," Rev. Dr. J. Christy Wilson Jr.; Union Service of First and Second Presbyterian Churches; First Church, Visiting Minister, Dr. Bruce Metzger, Princeton Theological Seminary; Methodist Church.  
"The Grace of Our Lord," Rev. Mr. Roland F. Chandler; Princeton Baptist Church at Penns Neck.  
Sermon, Rev. Mr. Halg J. Nargesian; Trinity Episcopal Church.  
Sermon, Rev. Mr. John W. Johnson; Mt. Pisgach Church.  
Sermon, Rev. Mr. Benjamin J. Anderson; Witherspoon Presbyterian Church.  
Visiting Preacher, Rev. Mr. E. J. Robinson; First Church.  
"Christ Jesus," Lesson-Sermon; First Church of Christ, Scientist.  
Friends Meeting for Worship; Stony Brook Meeting House.  
3:30 p.m.: Missionary Service; Visiting Preacher, Rev. Mr. J. B. Brandon, Scranton, Pa.; First Baptist Church.  
8:00 p.m.: "The God of Daniel," Rev. Dr. Wilson; First Church.  
Visiting Preacher, Rev. Mr. Robinson; First Baptist Church.  
**Monday, August 29th**  
1:00 p.m.: Medical Clinic, Princeton Hospital.  
6:00 p.m.: Twin-M League Baseball Play-Off (if necessary); Princeton vs. Hightstown; University Field.  
**Tuesday, August 30th**  
1:00 p.m.: Surgical Clinic, Princeton Hospital.  
6:15 p.m.: Anti-Bonus Meeting, Sponsored by Princeton Chapter No. 1, AVC; Avalon, 59 Bayard Lane.  
**Wednesday, August 31st**  
8:15 p.m.: Mid-Week Meeting; First Church of Christ, Scientist.  
8:30 p.m.: Mid-Week Hours of Prayer; First Baptist and Mount Pisgach Churches.  
**Thursday, September 1st**  
11:00 a.m.: Cancer Detection Clinic, Princeton Hospital. Obstetrical Clinic at 1:00 p.m.  
Noon: Special Borough Council Meeting, Borough Hall.

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## SPORTS IN SHORT

—Continued from Page 4

tough opposition in Palmer Stadium.

Up & Down. Friday evening saw Princeton's Twin-M League baseball team collar first place in the final standings by overtaking Belle Mead in a dramatic contest, 8-5. Monday night, the Tigertown entry could do little that was right, came close to getting itself knocked out of the play-offs in the semi-finals when Hightstown won, 5-2, with comparative ease.

Steading as he went along, Tom Brophy turned back Belle Mead at University Field Friday before 500 persons. Early misplays helped the visitors to a three-run margin, but Nick Ross banged out a clutch single to drive in two and climax the rally that won the game.

Wilson Comerford was shaky on the mound against third-place Hightstown Monday evening, but any degree of steadiness he might have acquired from his teammates was lacking. They were charged with seven errors in as many innings, falling behind 2-1 in the second and never closing the margin. If the game this Thursday evening at Hightstown sees Princeton victorious, the teams will be back at University Field Monday night for the deciding contest in the semi-final round. Blawenburg or Belle Mead will be the other finalist.

Look Out Below! When the dust had cleared on the softball diamonds, none of the first-place teams in the three leagues had managed to win the playoffs. The Phantoms, runners-up in the "A" circuit, topped the Forty-Niners in the finals to win the Town Topics Trophy for the third straight year. Juggtown conquered the Odd Fellows, front-runners all season, 10-7, to take the "C" League title and the University Laundry Trophy. ETS knocked off the first-place AVC nine in the "B" League semi-finals, is battling the Post Office for the Edmund D. Cook Trophy. Awards for sportsmanship, presented by Princeton Fuel Oil, Hevden Chemical and Farr Hardware, will be distributed within the next fortnight.

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